United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh Emergency Message for U.S. citizens

Travel Warning Updated for Bangladesh

July 10, 2016

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to consider carefully whether you need to travel to Bangladesh, in light of the latest attack in a series of extremist events. Effective July 10, 2016, the Department of State authorized the voluntary departure of family members of U.S. government personnel posted to the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka remains open and will provide all routine consular services. The U.S. government assesses that the terrorist threat is real and credible.

On July 1, 2016, terrorists killed 20 hostages in a restaurant frequented by foreigners in Dhaka's diplomatic enclave, including one U.S. citizen. Other attacks continue to be carried out against religious minorities, bloggers, publishers, and security forces throughout the country. Daesh (also referred to as ISIL, or ISIS) and Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) have publicly claimed credit for various attacks since September 2015.

U.S. citizens should take stringent security measures, remain vigilant, and be alert to local security developments. Be aware that U.S. government officials and their families currently are not permitted to:

- visit public establishments or places in Bangladesh
- travel on foot, motorcycle, bicycle, rickshaw, or other uncovered means on public thoroughfares and sidewalks in Bangladesh
- attend large gatherings in Bangladesh

The U.S. Embassy encourages U.S. citizens to adopt similar security measures. For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the <u>U.S. Embassy in Dhaka</u>, Bangladesh, located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, at (88) (02) 5566-2000, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Weekends and After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (88) (02) 5566-2000 (press "0" and ask for the duty officer).
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

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